(II)

"I am directed to inform you that Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 30th April, 1992, has adopted the following motion extending the time for presentation of the Report of the Joint Committee on the Constitution (Seventy-second Amendment) Bill, 1991 (*Insertion of new Part IX and addition of Eleventh Schedule*):—

MOTION

"That this House do extend up to the last day of the first week of Monsoon Session, 1992, the time for presentation of the Report of the Joint Committee on the Bill further to amend the Constitution of India *viz.* the Constitution (Seventy-second Amendment) Bill, 1991 (*Insertion of new Part IX and addition of Eleventh Schedule.*)"

(THE VICE-CHAIRMAN, PROF. CHANDRESH P. THAKUR, IN THE CHAIR)

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Re. Incident of fire in Nai Basti, Naya Bazar, Delhi on 29-4-1992

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): Sir, I wish to apprise the hon. Members of this august House about the unfortunate incident of fire in Nai Basti, Naya Bazar on 29-4-1992.

At about 10.12 A.M. on 29-4-1992, information was received at P. S. Lahori Gate that smoke was coming out near Sushil Mohan School and that there was some fire. At about 10.14 A.M. another information was received in Police Station, Lahori Gate, on wireless from PCR that an unknown caller had informed that a bomb had exploded in Naya Bazar near Pili Kothi behind Novelty Cinema.

The police rushed to the spot and found that three buildings bearing Nos. 1725, 1726 and 1727 which were two/three storeyed, had collapsed.

The control room of Delhi Fire Service had received information at about 10.10 A.M. about the fire. Three water tankers and one ambulance were rushed to the spot. At 10.30 A.M. fire was declared medium and at 10.45 A.M. serious. The fire was brought under control at 1.15 P.M. In all 43 fire-units were deployed in fire-fighting and rescue operations.

The ground-floors of these three buildings are occupied by transport companies. The Municipal Corporation of Delhi and the Delhi Fire Service, with the assistance of the Delhi Police launched a joint rescue operation. About 400 persons of the Corporation and 250 personnel of the Delhi Fire Service were deployed for the work.

The rescue operations have been continuing uninterruptedly since yesterday morning. The MCD officials and the personnel of the Delhi Fire Service with the assistance of police are still removing the debris to rescue those who may be still entrapped.

According to the information available so far 28 persons have died and 24 have sustained injuries. Of these 12 have been discharged. The remaining are admitted in various hospitals.

After the explosion, the Crime Team, The Bomb Disposal Staff, the experts from CFSL and Operation Cell visited the site. The cause of fire has not yet been determined. According to preliminary enquiries, fire started after an explosion which was followed by two other explosions. The area is highly congested and is a business centre. A number of transport companies are located in the area which handle all sorts of goods, including highly inflammable items.

A case under sections 4/5 Explosive Substances Act and sections 304/308/427/436 IPC has been registered at P.S. Lahori Gate and detailed investigations regarding the cause of fire are under pro-

gress. Parliamentary enquiries made by the police so far show that the explosion took place in the office-cum-godown of a company located in 1725, Nai Basti. One person has been arrested.

The Lt. Governor of Delhi, senior officers of the MCD, Delhi Fire Service and the Delhi Police visited the site yesterday.

I also visited the site yesterday. I have directed the officials of MCD/Fire Service and Delhi Police to undertake expeditious rescue operation and clear of the debris. Delhi Administration has ordered a magisterial enquiry into the incident. I shall share the findings of the enquiry with the hon. Members.

Delhi Administration has taken steps to grant ex-gratia relief to the victims of the tragedy.

In order to decongest the Walled City and disperse the wholesale trade to different areas of Delhi, Sanjay Gandhi Transport Nagar has been developed on GT-Karnal Road, where many transport companies, particularly godowns, can shift. Many have done and others are in the process of shifting. This process will be expedited. Delhi Administration had decided some time ago that from 1st June, 1992, entry of heavy goods and vehicles to certain congested areas of the Walled City would be banned.

श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय (उत्तर प्रदेश): माननीय उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, कल जो देश की राजधानी दिल्ली में दुर्भाग्यपूर्ण और हृदयविदारक घटना घटी और जिसके फलस्वरूप, जैसा कि गृह मंत्री जी ने बताया कि 28 व्यक्ति घटनास्थल पर मारे गए हैं और 24 लोगों को चोटें आई हैं, गभीर रूप से–तो दिन में यह घटना घटती है दिल्ली में, राजधानी में जहां कि केन्द्र सरकार है और वहां से थोडी ही दूरी पर दिल्ली का जो सचिवालय है उसका दफ्तर भी है । जो इस तरह की घटना घटी है यह इस बात का सबूत है कि दिल्ली प्रशासन और दिल्ली प्रशासन के जो संबंधित अधिकारी हैं वे बिल्कुल कुंभकर्नी नींद सो रहे हैं । इतनी बडी घटना हो जाने के बाद इस सरकार ने केवल एक काम किया है, मजिस्ट्रेटी जांच बिठा दी है । मजिस्ट्रेटी जांच बिठाने के अलावा इस सरकार ने कुछ नहीं किया । घटना हो जाय उसके बाद जांच बिठाना गलत काम नहीं है लेकिन यह घटना हुई कैसे ? इस घटना को रोकने के लिए जो इस सरकार की सी. आई. डी. की मशीनरी है, जो पुलिस की मशीनरी है, जिनके हाथ में इस बात की जिम्मेदारी दी गई है, जिनका कर्तव्य है कि किसी भी घटना को रोकने के लिए अपने दायित्व का निर्वहन करे तो इस सिलसिले में सरकार ने किसी अधिकारी के खिलाफ कार्यवाही क्यों नहीं की ? मजिस्ट्रेटी जांच होगी उसमें दो महीने लगेंगे, चार महीने लगेंगे । जब तक इसका पता लगेगा तब तक दिल्ली के किसी और मुहल्ले में इस तरह की घटना घटित हो जाएगी । तो मैं इस संबंध में सरकार की आरोपित करना चाहता हूं और कहना चाहता हूं कि इतनी बडी घटना हो जाने के बाद भी सरकार ने जो भी इस क्षेत्र से संबंधित पुलिस के अधिकारी हैं, चाहे डी.सी.पी. हो, चाहे ए.सी.पी. हो, चाहे एडिशनल एस पी हो, जिनके हाथ में इसकी जिम्मेदारी थी–पुलिस वालों का काम है गश्त करना और मुहल्ले और बाजारों में जाकर यह देखना कि कहीं इस तरह की घटना न हो । तो इस सिलसिले में क्या आपने अपनी सी.आई.डी की मशीनरी को जानकारी प्राप्त करने के लिए लगाया था ? यदि ऐसा था तो इस सिलसिले में ये अधिकारी क्या करते रहे ?

मैं इस बात को जानना चाहता हूं और मैं पूछना चाहता हू कि ऐसे अधिकारियों के खिलाफ आपने क्यों नहीं कार्यवाही की । आप जांच बैठायेंगे । उसका नतीजा आएगा । लेकिन कम से कम जब इस प्रकार की दुखद, दुर्भाग्यपूर्ण और हृदय विदारक घटना घटित हो गयी तो इससे बडी घटना भी घट सकती है इसलिए कम से कम इस क्षेत्र के, इस हल्के के जो जिम्मेदार पुलिस अधिकारी हैं, उनके खिलाफ आपको कार्यवाही करनी चाहिए । यदि आप कार्यवाही नहीं कर सकते हैं तो मैं समझता हूं कि गृह मंत्री के रूप में आप अपने कर्तव्य का निर्वह नही कर रहे हैं क्योंकि दिल्ली

[श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय]

में विधान सभा नहीं है, सरकार नहीं है। दिल्ली सीधे सीधे केंद्र सरकार के अधिकार क्षेत्र में आती है। इसलिए मैं आपसे निवेदन करना चाहता हूं कि इस प्रकार की घटनाओं की पुनरावृत्ति न हो इस लिए, जो जिम्मेदार अधिकारी वहां उस हल्के में रहे हों उनकी जिम्मेदारी आप तय करिए और उनके खिलाफ कार्यवाही कीजिए। सजा देने का काम बाद में हो जाएगा। निश्चित रूप से इस मामले में लापवाही हुई है। अगर लापरवाही हुई है तो पुलिस अधिकारियों के खिलाफ भी पुलिस एक्ट के अन्तर्गत कार्यवाही कर सकते हैं। कोई पुलिस अधिकारी अगर अपनी ड्यूटी करने में नेगलीजेंट रहा है तो पुलिस एक्ट आप अपराधिक मामला दर्ज कर सकते हैं। इसलिए मेरा निवेदन है कि आपको इस सिलसिले में कार्यवाही करनी चाहिए।

दूसरा, मैं यह जानना चाहता हूं कि यह जो चौमंजिला इमारत वहां पर थी जहां पर बम विस्फोट हुआ तो क्या इस इमारत के सिलसिले में कभी सरकार के पास या यहां की जो डी.डी.ए. है उसके पास इस प्रकार की इत्तिला आई कि इससे संबंधित जो मालिक है वे चाहते हैं कि यहां पर जो छोटे मोटे किराएदार हैं वे इसको छोडकर चले जाए। ऐसी मुझको जानकारी मिली है। मेरी जानकारी गलत भी हो सकती है। लेकिन अगर सरकार के पास या डी.डी.ए. के पास इस तरह की कोई शिकायत कभी आई थी तो जो आप जांच बैठाने जा रहे हैं उसके संबंध में इस सिलसिले में इसी आप ध्यान रखिएगा।

तीसरा, मेरा अंतिम सवाल है कि यह कोई समाधान नहीं है जो आपने आखिर में बताया है कि — Delhi Administration had decided some time ago that from 1st June, 1991 entry of heavy goods and vehicles to certain congested areas of the Walled City would be banned.

24 लोग, 28 लोग जनता के मर गए हैं, 28 लोग घायल हैं। पता नहीं इसमें से कितने लोग आज भी मर गए होंगे और इसकी सजा अब जनता के लोगों को दी जाएगी। इसमें अपना दिमाग एप्लाई करिए, अपना विवेक एप्लाई करिए अधिकारियों ने एक राय दे दी कि पहली जून 1992 से जो रास्ता है वहां से हैवी ट्रक्स या अन्य व्हीकल वहां नहीं जाने पायेंगे, यह कोई समस्या का समाधान नहीं है या। इससे लोगों की तकलीफ बढ़ेगी, परेशानी बढ़ेगी का। उस लोकेलिटी को मैंने देखा हुआ है। बहुत ही कन्जेस्टेड लोकेलिटी है या। वहां पर व्यापारी और अन्य लोग रहते हैं। किसी व्हीकल के जाने से वहां बमबाजी नहीं हुई है, बम विस्फोट नहीं हुआ है। कैसे इस नतीजे पर अधिकारी पहुच गए कि व्हीकलस के जाने से वहां पर बम विस्फोट हुआ। मैं आपसे नम्र निवेदन करना चाहता हूं कि अधिकारियों ने जो आपको राय दी है और जो आपने फैसला लिया है कि पहली जून, 1992 से पुराने शहर के भीडभाड वाले क्षेत्रों में भारी सामान तथा वाहनों के प्रवेश पर पाबंदी लगा दी जाएगी तो कृपया इस पाबंदी को मत लगने दीजिए। इससे जो गरीब जनता है, वहां के जो व्यापारी हैं, वहां के जो ग्राहक हैं, जो जनता वहां आती है अपने काम से उसको तकलीफ होगी, परेशानी होगी बजाए इसके कि अधिकारियों को दंडित करें, उनके खिलाफ कार्यवाही करें, आप निरोह और निर्दोश जनता को दंडित करने जा रहे हैं। इसलिए आखिरी मेरा आपसे निवेदन यही है कि और इसका प्रश्न के रूप में कहना चाहता हूं कि जो आपने अंतिम निर्णय लिया है कृपया इसको आप वापस लेने कार्यकाम करेंगे या नहीं ? धन्यवाद

श्रीमती सरला माहेश्वरी (पश्चिमी बंगाल) : माननीय उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं मंत्री महोदय से यह कहना चाहूंगी कि दिल्ली में एक के बाद एक बम विस्फोट की एक श्रंखला शुरू हुई है, पहले 23 अप्रैल को पहाड गंज में, फिर 25 अप्रैल को लालकिले के पास तथा 26 अप्रैल को जामा मस्जिद के निकट बम विस्फोट

हुए तो क्या यह जो नया बाजार में घटना घटी है इसे भी बम विस्फोट की घटना नहीं माना जाना चाहिए या वैसी आशंका पैदा नहीं होती कि यह भी बम विस्फोट की घटना हो, हालांकि मंत्री महोदय ने उसके कारण कुछ अलग दर्शाने की बात कही है, बहरहाल मेरी यह आशंका है ।

मेरा दूसरा सवाल यह है कि इस हादसे में नगर निगम और दमकल के अधिकारियों ने बहुत ही लापरवाही से काम लिया । जहां यह घटना घटी उससे सिर्फ आधा किलोमीटर दूरी पर दमकल है ।

मंत्री महोदय ने जो बयान दिया है, उसमें उन्होंने कहा है कि "10.30 बजे पूर्वाहन आग को "मध्यम श्रेणी" का घोषित किया गया और करीब 10.45 बजे अपराहन इसे गंभीर घोषित कर दिया गया ।"

उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, मैं यह जानना चाहता हूं कि यह अग्नि शमन गाडियां अग्नि का शमन करने गई थीं या उसे प्रज्जवलित करने गई थीं, कि उनके जाने के बाद आग और गंभीर हो गई ?

जहां तक मुझे खबर है, दमकल काफी विलम्ब से पहुंची और स्थानीय लोगों का यह कहना है कि अगर दमकल के लोगों ने तथा नगर निगम के लोगों ने चुस्ती से काम लिया होता, तो हादसे की संख्या और कम की जा सकती थी तथा और ज्यादा लोगों को बचाया जा सकता था ।

मैं चाहूंगी कि मंत्री महोदय इस संबंध में अपनी सफाई दें ।

इसके अलावा तीसरी बात मैं यह जानना चाहूंगी--मंत्री महोदय ने अपने बयानमें कहा है कि अनुग्रह दिए जाने के लिए कदम उठाए जा रहे हैं । मैं यह जानना चाहूंगी कि इस अनुग्रह की कितनी मात्रा होगी ।

माननीय मंत्री महोदय ने अपने बयान में यह भी कहा कि एक आदमी को गिरफ्तार किया गया है । मैं यह जानना चाहूंगी कि जिस आदमी को गिरफ्तार किया गया है, उसे किस आधार पर गिरफ्तार किया गया है ? उस पर क्या केस है ? उसकी गिरफ्तारी के पीछे क्या कारण हैं, इसका भी अगर मंत्री महोदय स्पष्टीकरण करेंगे, तो काफी अच्छा रहेगा ।

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY (Pondicherry): Sir, though the statement made by the honourable Minister gives certain details about the fire in the Naya Bazaar area, we have to go deeply into the matter. We have seen that there have been a series of bomb blasts in Delhi and during this week, this is the third blast. Time and again we have raised in this House this matter and said that the terrorists have entered Delhi and more than five thousand terrorists are in Delhi and they are having their hide-outs in the Old Delhi area. But I am surprised that the police have not arrested the terrorists and taken them into custody. No combing operation has been done and this is the root cause. We have to see the root cause and we have to find out what the reasons are for such blasts. This incident is also suspected to be a case of bomb blast though there are various other theories. But this is a bomb blast that has razed three buildings to the ground. Therefore, I would request the honourable Minister to see that combing operations are undertaken by the police for identifying the terrorists and then bringing them to book. Now, in Delhi, the people feel insecur and they are not coming out of their houses after seven o'clock in the evening except in those areas which come urder the police potection. In the Old Delhi areas, people do not come out of their houses and the people who are living in colonies are finding it very difficult to come out of their houses in the evening. That is the position now in Delhi. Therefore, I would request the honourable Minister to take steps to identify the terrorists and then bring them to book.

Sir, I have gone through the statement. I am very much thankful to the honourable Minister who immediately visited the spot and ordered rescue operations to be carried out immediately. But I am surprised to note that some transport companies were

[Shri V. Narayanasamy]

there and chemicals had been kept in godowns and it is said that this was the reason for the fire. This has been suggested as one of the reasons. This area is a bazar area and is thickly populated and most of the shops and other establishments are the there. The Government could have taken all precautions, especially in the Old Delhi areas.

The Government should have taken all precautions to see that the congestion in the market is regularised. But they allowed the situation to grow and then they said they are going to regularise. The Minister's statement says that they are going to regularise the traffic and they do not want the vehicles to move in that area. They find the remedy only after the incident. Sir, here about the compensation that has been suggested, the Minister should have directed the authorities there on the spot to give ex gratia payment to the victims of the deceased persons and also persons who are injured. Then, the amount has not been mentioned in the statement. What have the Delhi Administration done? The people have been rendered homeless and their families are suffering. What steps have they taken to safeguard their interests and to provide them relief? The statement is silent in this regard. Sir, a devastating fire was there and more than 2000 people are affected. The Minister said that 28 people have lost their lives and 24 have sustained injuries. But the effect of the devastation of the fire is on more than 2000 people. What steps have they taken to give protection and also give benefits to those people who have lost their houses?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. CHANDRESH P. THAKUR): Thank you.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Final point. I am not going beyond that.

The eye-witness account is very clear. The people who had been there and who have escaped from the devastation fire have categorically stated that there were bomb blasts in sequence. The hon. Minister's statement is silent about it. The Minister said that they received the information. What is the police version? The Minister says:

> "...the explosion took place in the office-cum-godown of a company located in 1725, Nai Basti,55

Now, what is the preliminary investigation? What is the police version The police account is not clear.

Therefore, Sir, the remedy, as I suggested earlier, is that the Delhi Police should be more vigilant. They should give protection to people. They should concentrate on it. Even if they need more men for the purpose of protection to people, they should recruit more police personnel. There has been laxity on the part of the police in more than three blasts in Delhi. I submit that the Minister should be more strict with the police authorities of Delhi so that the people live in peace and they do not have fear especially the people who are living on the outside of Delhi.

With these words, I conclude.

श्री आनन्द प्रकाश गौतम (उत्तर प्रदेश) : उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, पिछले एक सप्ताह के अंदर दिल्ली में विस्फोट की यह चौथी घटना है । यह जो कल घटना हुई यह विस्फोट की सब से भयंकर घटना है जिसमें सब से ज्यादा जन और धन की हानि हुई है । 3 मकान धराशाही हो गए । लेकिन माननीय मंत्री जी के वक्तव्य में जो बार-बार बात कही गई है कि जो पुलिस ने सूचना दी है उसके अनुसार ऐसा लगता है कि यह कोई आग लगने से ही सारा कार्य हुआ है लेकिन एक पैराग्राफ में माननीय मंत्री जी के वक्तव्य में यह स्पष्ट है कि आग के लगने से पहले ही कोई विस्फोट हुआ है जिस के कारण आग लगी । यह विस्फोट क्या था ? कोई बम विस्फोट था या नहीं था , इसके बारे में कौन गई स्पष्ट जानकारी इस बयान में नहीं मालूम होती है । क्या ऐसा संभव नहीं है कि पुलिस ने या पुलिस के अधिकारी और कर्मचारियों ने लगातार बम विस्फोट की दिल्ली के घने इलाकों में घटनाओं की देख करके यह इस घटना को न जोडा जाए बम में इसलिए इसको आग की घटना का नाम

दिया है । चूंकि माननीय मंत्री जी स्वयं उस घटना पर, वहां घटना का दौरा भी किए हैं ।

तो मेरा ख्याल है कि बहुत स्पष्ट जानकारी वहां से मिली होगी कि आखिर यह जो बम-विस्फोट हुआ आग लगने से पहले, वह क्या था और वह बम-विस्फोट किन कारणों से हुआ ? यह तो इससे साफ है कि आग लगने के कारणों का अभी तक पता नहीं लगाया जा सका है । लगता यह है कि मैनली आग लगी है, लेकिन वक्तव्य में यह स्पष्ट है कि आग लगने की घटना से पूर्व कोई विस्फोट भी हुआ है । तो यह विस्फोट के कारण दूसरी जो आग लगी है या दो बम विस्फोट हुए हैं लगातार, एक पहला हुआ और फिर दो धमाके और हुए, तो यह दूसरे वाले तो लगता यह है कि किन्हीं कैमिकल की वजह से हुए हों, मगर पहले वाला जो है उसके बारे में जरूर खोजबीन की जानी चाहिए कि कहीं यह आतंकवादी गतिविधियों के क्रम में तो कोई घटना नहीं हुई है ? इस बारे में सरकार को विशेष रूप से सजग होना चाहिए । साथ ही, आने वाले दिनों में क्या सरकार ऐसा कोई कदम उठाने जा रही है कि ऐसे भीड भरे इलाकों में इस प्रकार की और कोई दुर्घटनायें न हों ?

उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, दूसरा, यह कहा गया है कि दुर्घटना में शिकार हुए लोगों को अनुग्रह राहत प्रदान करने के लिए दिल्ली प्रशासन ने कदम उठाए हैं । दिल्ली प्रशासन ने अनुग्रह-राहत प्रदान करने के लिए कदम उठाए हैं, क्या माननीय मंत्री जी ने भी इस विषय में कोई जानकारी प्राप्त की है कि अनुग्रह-राहत किस प्रकार की राहत है ? क्या उन्हें आर्थिक कोई सहायता दी जा रही है या उन्हें कोई मकान का मुआवजा देने का काम हो रहा है ? इसके बारे में भी माननीय मंत्री जी बतायेंगे ।

अन्त में, जैसा आपने कहा कि पुराने शहर से भीड़ाभाड़ को दूर करने और थोक व्यापार को हटाकर दिल्ली के विभिन्न क्षेत्रों में ले जाने के उद्देश्य से जी०टी० करनाल रोड पर संजय गांधी ट्रांसपोर्ट नगर का विकास किया गया है । और, शायद कुछ समय पूर्व दिल्ली प्रशासन ने यह निर्णय लिया था कि 01 जून, 1992 से पुराने शहर के कुछ भीडभाड़ वाले क्षेत्रों में भारी सामान, वाहनों के प्रवेश पर पाबंदी लगा दी जाएगी । तो क्या माननीय मंत्री जी बतायेंगे वह पाबंदी कब से लगाने वाले हैं ? वैसे तो, 1 जून की बात है, चूंकि यह घटना हो गई है तो क्या उस पर तत्काल कोई कदम उठाने के लिए माननीय मंत्री जी ने निर्देश दिए हैं ? धन्यवाद ।

SHRI SHABBIR AHMAD SALARIA (Jammu and Kashmir): Sir, I would like to seek a few important clarifications from the hon. Minister on the statement that he has made. Sir, the fact is that the area in which the accident took place is highly crowded. And it is also a fact that the buildings which have been affected in the fire which took place allegedly on account of the explosive chemical things which were kept there are very old. Now, I would like the hon. Minister to tell us in his reply whether any steps are going to be taken by which recurrence of such an incident in this area is obviated. That is to say keeping of chemical commodities which are inflammable in congested localities of Delhi should be stopped so that such an occurrence does not take place in future. That is number one. Secondly, Sir, the possibility of a fire breaking out in congested localities cannot be ruled out. Therefore, the Fire Service will generally find it difficult to reach the spot because of the fact that the area is crowded and because of the fact that the lanes are small. I would like to know whether any measures would be taken in consultation with the Fire service that if such a mishap takes place at any time god. Forbid, in future, it is possible to take the fire service to those areas. Bigger fire tenders may not be able to go there. But there can be smaller fire tenders and smaller vehicles and such points from which water can be taken and pipes can be immediately laid so that such buildings as are affected by fire are in future rescued and the persons living there are saved.

[Shri Shabbir Ahmad Salaria]

The third point which I would like to mention is, much of old Delhi consists of century-old or half a century-old buildings. I would like to know whether the Government will learn a lesson from what has happened and get in touch with the municipal authorities to wake up to a scheme by which the buildings which are so very old and dilapidated and are likely to fall not only on account of such explosions but also for other reasons, are either dismantled or are repaired to such an extent—if they are repairable—that human life is not lost and the sufferings of human beings are obviated.

These are my submissions and I would like the hon. Minister to kindly make a note of them.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. CHANDRESH P. THAKUR): Shri Kapil Verma, not here; Dr. Jain, not here. Shri Ish Dutt Yadav.

श्री ईश दत्त यादव (उत्तर प्रदेश) : माननीय उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, पूरे सदन की जो चिंता है दिल्ली की कल की घटना के बारे में, वह बिल्कुल सही है । यह कल की घटना अतयंत ही भयंकर घटना हुई है । इसके पहले भी बराबर दिल्ली में घटनायें हो रही हैं और सबसे चिंता का विषय यह है कि दिल्ली जो देश की राजधानी है, जहां पर केंद्रीय सरकार का शासन है, उस केंद्रीय सरकार के नीचे उसकी देख-रेख में इस तरह के अपराध और घटनायें हो रही हैं । समूचे देश पर इसका बुरा प्रभाव पड सकता है कि जब दिल्ली में शासन व्यवस्था नहीं है, क्रिमिनल्स को सरकार पकड नहीं सकती है, अपराध को रोक नहीं सकती है तो पूरे देश में अपराध बढ सकते हैं, मुझे ऐसी आशंका लगती है ।

माननीय, मंत्री जी के बयान से यह स्पष्ट हो रहा है कि हमारी पुलिस की, सरकार की, अग्निशमन सेवा की, सबकी इसमें लापरवाही है । क्योंकि माननीय, मंत्री जी ने अपने बयान में कहा है कि 10 :10 मिनट पर अग्निशमन सेवा बल को सूचना प्राप्त हो गई । 10.12 मिनट पर फिर लाहौरी गेट थाने को सूचना प्राप्त हो गई और 10.14 मिनट पर फिर सूचना प्राप्त हुई और जो सूचनायें प्राप्त हुई हैं, इन सूचनाओं में यह है कि धुंआ उठ रहा है, अभी विस्फोट की कोई सूचना नहीं है । इतनी बडी घटना हुई, विस्फोट हुआ और दो बार विस्फोट हुआ अंतर के बाद हुआ लेकिन इस पर पुलिस मौन है, अग्निशमन सेवा बल मौन है । 10.10 पर तो इनको सूचना मिल गई लेकिन मंत्री जी ने जो बयान दिया है, इस बयान में यह नहीं कहा कि पुलिस ने कब प्रस्थान किया वहां के लिए और पुलिस घटनास्थल पर कब पहुंची ? यह तथ्य मुझे लगता है कि छिपाया जा रहा है और जो मेरी जानकारी है मान्यवर कि घंटों बाद पुलिस आराम से वहां के लिए रवाना हुई और इसीलिए माननीय मंत्री जी के बयान में पुलिस के प्रस्थान का कोई, पुलिस का तो एक-एक सैकिंड रिकार्ड किया जाता है उनकी जी.डी. में, सूचना प्राप्त होने का जो रिकार्ड कर दिया कि 10.10 मिनट पर, 10:12 मिनट पर और 10:14 मिनट पर सूचना प्राप्त हुई लेकिन पुलिस कब रवाना हुई कब पहुंची, इसका कहीं कोई उल्लेख नहीं है ।

दूसरी चीज, मान्यवर, देखें कि पुलिस ने इसको कितना लाइटली लिया है । केस तो दर्ज कर दिया 4.53 एक्सप्लोसिव सब्सटेंसिस एक्ट में । 304 में दर्ज किया गया । 28 आदमी जान से मारे गए, 24 घायल हुए और आगे क्या स्थिति है जो घायल हुए, हैं उनकी, क्या स्थिति होगी नहीं कहा जा सकता, लेकिन पुलिस ने 304 में मुकदमा दर्ज किया—कल्पेबल होमिसाइड एमाउंटिंग टूमर्डर । 308 दर्ज किया, 307 में भी दर्ज नहीं किया । 307 में अनइंटेंशयसीली काजिंग इंजरी आर डेंजर टू लाइफ दर्ज कर दिया । तो इसको देखने से मुझे लगता है कि पुलिस इस मामले में एकदम दिलचस्पी नहीं ले रही है और खाना-पूर्ति उन्होंने की है इस तरह की एफ०आई. आर० दर्ज करके ।

मान्यवर, इतना बडा दस्ता लगाया गया और सूचनायें हर मिनट पर प्राप्त

हो रही थी तो अगर अग्नि शमन दल के लोग समय से पहुंच जाते तो शायद इस घटना को बचाया जा सकता था। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से एक चीज जानना चाहता हूं। इन्होंने अपने बयान में कहा है कि पहली घटना एक गोदाम में हुई। तो जिस गोदाम में घटना हुई उसके मालिक को, उसके मैनेजर को या उसमें काम करने वालों को, किसी को आज तक पूछताछ के लिए पुलिस ने कस्टडी में लिया, उसको गिरफ्तार किया या नहीं, क्योंकि इस समय वर्तमान में मंत्री जी का जो बयान है उससे यह लगता है कि पहली घटना किसी एक गोदाम में हुई। तो मैं निश्चित जानकारी चाहता। कि जिस गोदाम में घटना हुई है उस गोदाम के मालिक को, मैनेजर को, कर्मचारी को अब तक क्या पुलिस ने हिरासत में लिया या कोई पूछताछ की या नहीं की ? अगर हिरासत में नहीं लिया है तो मुझे संदेह है कि पुलिस इस मामले में बहुत रुचि नहीं ले रही है , सरकार को तो मैं नहीं कहूंगा, क्योंकि सरकार की दिलचस्पी है माननीय मंत्री जी मौके पर गए हैं और इन्होंने अपने बयान में दुख भी व्यक्त किया है। लेकिन इनके नीचे काम करने वाली पुलिस मुझे निष्क्रिय लग रही है। इसलिए मंत्री जी इस विषय को गंभीरता से लेंगे।

माननीय, मैं यह भी जानना चाहता हूं कि जब यह सूचना तुरन्त 10 बजकर 10 मिनट पर प्राप्त हो गयी थी तो पुलिस के लोग और अग्नि शमन दल के लोग अगर सजग हो गए होते, तेजी और फुर्ती दिखलाते तो क्या मंत्री जी को ऐसा आभास है कि इस भयंकर घटना को टाला जा सकता था ? धन्यवाद।

श्रीमती सत्या बहिन (उत्तर प्रदेश) : उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, आपने मुझे समय दिया, इसके लिए धन्यवाद।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (प्रो० चन्द्रेश पी० ठाकुर) : संक्षेप में कहिएगा।

श्रीमती सत्या बहिन : मैं बिलकुल संक्षेप में कहूंगी। पहले तो यह कहूंगी कि दिल्ली में विस्फोटों का जो घटनाक्रम चल रहा है, यह बहुत दर्दनाक बात है। कल की घटना का माननीय मंत्री जी ने जाकर के जो मुआयना किया, इसके लिए मैं उनको धन्यवाद देना चाहती हूं कि यह तुरन्त गए और घायलों की राहत व देखभाल का काम देखा।

मान्यवर, बयान में यह दिया हुआ है कि 1725 नम्बर के मकान में एक ट्रांसपोर्ट कंपनी का जो गोदाम है उसके एक सह गोदाम में विस्फोट हुआ। मैं यह पूछना चाहती हूं कि उस सह-गोदाम में उस वक्त क्या चीज थी ? जो एक व्यक्ति पकडा गया जैसा कि इस बयान में दिया गया है, क्या वह व्यक्ति आतंकवादी है या उस गोदाम का मालिक है या बोझा ढोने वाला बेचारा गरीब आदमी है जो अपना खाना-पूर्ति के लिये पकडा है। क्योंकि एक ही आदमी पकडा गया है, इससे यह स्पष्ट नहीं पता चल रहा है कि पुलिस किसी लक्ष्य तक पहुंचने में, कुछ सुराख लगाने में कामयाब हुई है।

महोदय, इसमें दिया गया है कि वह अत्यन्त भीड़भाड़ वाला इलाका है। मुझे मालूम है कि नया बाजार बहुत भीड़भाड़ वाला इलाका है और ज्वलनशील वस्तुएं भी वहां पर रहती हैं। उसके पास ही तिलक बाजार नाम की एक जगह है, जहां पूरी कैमिकल्स मार्केट है। और यह जो दुर्घटना हुई है वह कभी भी हो सकती थी, पहले भी हो सकती थी जो कल हुई और बाद में भी हो सकती है अगर हम समय से नहीं चेते। तो उसके लिये क्या कोई व्यवस्थित योजना बनेगी कि ऐसे भीड़भाड़ वाले इलाकों से ज्वलनशील वस्तुओं को अलग रखा जाये। इस बयान में मजिस्ट्रीयल जांच का भी उल्लेख किया गया है। तो वह जांच कब तक पूरी हो जायेगी? दिल्ली प्रशासन ने अनुग्रह राशि देने के केवल कदम उठाये हैं, तो क्या यह केवल कदम उठे रहेंगे और कब तक उनको राहत पहुंच जायेगी, क्योंकि ऐसी घटनाओं में तो पुरन्त राहत की जरूरत पड़ती है। उसमें व्यवस्था या समय का विलम्ब नहीं होना चाहिए।

मान्यवर, मैं यह भी पूछना चाहती हूं कि संजय गांधी ट्रांसपोर्ट नगर की तो पहले से योजना बन चुकी थी और बन भी चुका था तो वहां पर उनको ट्रांसफर क्यों नहीं किया गया? जो ट्रांसफर नहीं हुए हैं तो क्या उन कम्पनियों को, उन गोदामों को अभी तक कोई नोटिस दिये गये थे या नहीं? अगर उन्होंने इसका उल्लंघन किया तो उनके खिलाफ कोई कार्रवाई हुई नहीं हुई?

आज के समाचार-पत्रों में हमने यह देखा है कि जयप्रकाश नारायण अस्पताल में जो लोग शवों को लेकर के गये थे उन शवों को वहां डाक्टर्स ने लेने से इंकार कर दिया। इस कारण वहां गाड़ियों का आवागमन रुक गया और बहुत अव्यवस्था फैल गयी। तो इस बारे में भी माननीय मंत्री जी ध्यान देंगे? धन्यवाद।

SHRI SARADA MOHANTY (Orrisa): In the third paragraph of the statement it has been said that the police rushed to the spot and found that three buildings bearing such and such numbers had collapsed, but the press reports say that so many houses have been damaged by this fire. I would like to know whether there are any more houses which have been damaged and also whether some relief to these people whose houses have been damaged is going to be given.

Secondly, out of the 28 dead I would like to know how many were made and how many were female. Also it is said that out of 24 injured 12 were discharged. How many of the remaining 12 are seriously injured?

Lastly, you have ordered a magisterial inquiry. This will not serve any purpose. I want that there must be an enquiry by some higher officials or some judicial inquiry.

Finally, I would like to know whether the Delhi Administration has granted any ex-gratia payment. If so, what is the amount? Also, will the Central Government give some ex-gratia payment to these people?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. CHANDRESH P. THAKUR): Shri Ram Awadhesh Singh. You will take only two minutes.

श्री राम अवधेश सिंह (उत्तर प्रदेश): मान्यवर, जितनी गंभीर ये घटना है उतनी गंभीरता से यह बयान नहीं दिया गया है। इस बयान की किसी पंक्ति से कोई ऐसा आभास नहीं मिलता है कि सरकार दुःखी है और चिंतित है क्योंकि एक स्टीरियोटाइप बयान तैयार कर दिया गया है जैसे आम तौर से किया जाता है। ईश दत्त यादव जी ने ठीक ही कहा कि यह तो मिनट का हिसाब दिया गया है। दस बजकर दस मिनट पर अग्निशमन सेवा नियंत्रण कक्ष को सूचना मिली। फिर दस बजकर बारह मिनट पर लाहौरी गैट पुलिस थाने को सूचना मिली और फिर दस बजकर चौदह मिनट पर पी.सी.आर. के वायरलैस पर लाहौरी गेट पुलिस थाने को पुनः सूचना मिली। तो यहां तो मिनट-मिनट का हिसाब लिखा गया है लेकिन तीसरे पैराग्राफ में साफ मार दिया गया है कि पुलिस तुरंत घटनास्थल पर पहुंची। तो 'तुरंत' से पता नहीं चलता कि कब पहुंची। यह तो बताना था कि हम यहां से कब प्रस्थान कर रहे हैं। तो इससे लगता है कि पुलिस ने इसको स्वयं भी गंभीरता से शुरू में नहीं लिया।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (प्रो० चन्द्रेश पी० ठाकुर): तुरंत का माने तुरंत।

श्री राम अवधेश सिंह सिंह: कांग्रेस सरकार का शीघ्र और यथाशीघ्र का बहुत लंबा समय होता है लेकिन यह लगता है कि इसे गंभीरता से नहीं लिया गया। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूं कि क्या सरकार ने यह जानने की कोशिश की है कि यह आग कैमिकल एक्सप्लोजन से लगी है या बाहरी तत्वों द्वारा कोई विस्फोटक... (**व्यवधान**)

श्री वी० नारायणसामी (पांडिचेरी): अरे इंक्वायरी चल रही है भई।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. CHANDRESH P. THAKUR): Why are you provoking him?

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Inquiry has been ordered, that is what I am telling him.

श्री राम अवधेश सिंह : तो मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि विस्फोटक घटनाएं तो कई वर्षों से नहीं तो कई महीनों से कह सकते हैं, कि सीरियस रूप में दिल्ली में फिर उभरकर आ रही हैं क्योंकि पिछले 2 सालों में कई घटनाएं हुई थीं लेकिन बीच में थोड़ी शान्ति थी। लेकिन इधर विस्फोट की घटनाएं फिर होने लगी हैं। इनमें आतंकवादियों का हाथ है या नहीं, मगर इनको सीरियसली लेना चाहिए। इनकी खोज करनी चाहिए। इनके पीछे क्या कारण है ? ऐसे ही किसी आदमी को गिरफ्तार कर लिया खानापूरी करने के लिए कि यह फलाना आदमी है, उसका ड्राइवर है, कौन है पता नहीं, उसको पकड़ लिया। तो मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि क्या सरकार इस दिशा में भी सोच रही है कि इसमें कुछ बाहरी तत्वों का, राष्ट्रविरोधी तत्व कह सकते हैं, मिलिटेंट्स कह कहते हैं, कई भाषा में लोग कहते हैं, उनका भी हाथ है कि नहीं ?

दूसरे, जो राहत देने की बात कही गई है उसमें कुछ न कुछ ठोस ऐलान करना चाहिए था कि मृतकों को 50 हजार देंगे या एक लाख देंगे, कुछ न कुछ ठोस बात कहनी चाहिए थी। लेकिन इनकी भाषा बिलकुल नगण्य है, बेजान भाषा में राहत कार्य किए जा रहे हैं, यह कहा गया है। तो क्या राहत के कार्य जो किए जा रहे हैं उनमें रुपया दिया जा रहा है, कंपेंसेशन दिया जा रहा है, क्या दिया जा रहा है, यह बात सरकार साफ साफ बोले।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (प्रो० चन्द्रेश पी० ठाकुर): अंतिम बात कहिए, और भी लोग हैं।

श्री राम अवधेश सिंह : मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि जो तीन मकान ध्वस्त हुए हैं तो ऐसा भी तो कोई कारण हो सकता है कि जो ट्रांसपोर्ट कंपनी थी उससे और दूसरों का आपस में कोई विद्वेष हो। व्यक्तिगत दुश्मनी भी हो सकती है। यह जरूरी नहीं है कि बाहरी तत्व ही कर सकते हैं, उपद्रवी हो कर सकते हैं। आपसी विद्वेष भी उसको हानि पहुंचाने के लिए टाइम बम प्लांट करा सकता है। ऐसी भी संभावना हो सकती है। तो क्या इस दिशा में भी सरकार द्वारा सोचा जा रहा है ?

SHRI DINESHBHAI TRIVEDI (Gujarat): Sir, I want to ask a very basic and fundamental question. These things, to my mind, are symptoms of a system which is very rapidly but definitely collapsing. I am not concerned which Government it is. In the past couple of years these activities have really gone up in three different Governments.

But the basic question is, as to what is happening, who is looking after this? Is this being looked after at a political level or is it left to the officials in the Home Minstry or are the police only doing it? Sir, the reason why I am raising this is, we are always fire-fighting. If some blasts takes place somewhere, the entire attention just goes there. It appears in the newspapers, it appears all over the country that people are killed, this thing or that thing happened, and then the subject is forgotten till somewhere else a blast takes place. Sir, this is going beyond all limits. I would like to know what is the accountability level. I do not see any heads rolling. Well, I don't say that is the only solution, that people should resign or be sacked and what have you. But the basic question is, where is your system?

In the name of terrorists, even if terrorists are not involved, the file is closed saying that it was a terrorist act. Like my hon. colleague has just mentioned, it may not be a terrorist act. To the convenience of the authorities, where they do not have to investigate further, the files are closed. Sir, my question is, what is our IB Department, where the taxpayers are paying so much money, doing? Why spend so much money on those departments if they are not going

[Shri Dineshbhai Trivedi]

to deliver the goods? Sir, I think it is very serious.

Would the Minister consider having an overhaul of the entire system? Make a due study, if need be. Have a parliamentary committee of both the Houses to look into it. What is really happening? Where is the system? I am terribly concerned that in the capital city of Delhi we have so many such incidents. It has become a way of life as if. We certainly would not like to be complacent and accept it.

क्या हुआ बम तो रोज फूटते हैं।

I would just like to highlight, Sir, that we are reaching very dangerous level. Kindly don't take this very lightly. I am not trying to suggest that the hon. Minister is taking it lightly. No. We have to come up collectively with some kind of a solution. In these incidents, unfortunately, so many lives are lost. You ask the mother who has lost her son or the son who has lost his parents. They are all in agony. We are not till the time it touches us. Once it touches us, then, we realise that the world has come to an end.

Sir, would you like to consider having a parliamentary committee? Or having something else? I am also fed up of these committees because committees do not end up in anything. Consider something by which the collapse of the system is arrested. Today it is a collapse of the system. This is my submission, Sir.

I have full faith in this hon. Minister that he would look into it. Kindly have it done at the political level also so that there is responsibility in each cases. What happens? There are many authorities. At the end of the day there is a tendency to shift the responsibility. Then, we do not know what has really happened. For example, there was a fire in the Vigyan Bhavan, such an important place where we had so many historic conferences, seminar. There was a fire which gutted it down. We still do not know what really happened. What was the motive? Why is it happening. How do we, restore the system?

Thank you.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. CHANDRESHI P. THAKUR): I think, since we are all in Delhi and Parliament is also in Delhi, the issue is definitely of direct concern to each one of us individually and collectively. I would, from the Chair also, like to associate myself with some of these thoughts that have been mentioned, whether they have been said by one Member or the other.

The society is changing. It is becoming complex. The nature of the problems is becoming very difficult. Correspondingly the response of the Government also must be matching that level, whether they are in the preventive area or in the positive area, through police, fire-fighting or hospital facilities or post-event compensation or whatever. So, I am sure the Minister will respond to that. It is not a question of finding fault with a department, but it is a question of a collective response of the entire Government machinery because there is no doubt that the problem is getting frequent and falling into a pattern. The Government has to find some ways to look at it in a different way.

Dr. Jain, your name was called, but you were not there. Could you be very brief?

DR. JINENDRA KUMAR JAIN (Madhya Pradesh): Thank you, Sir. Sir, I will first come to the relief because the relief should be immediately arranged. The Minister has kindly mentioned about some *ex-gratia* relief to the victims of the tragedy. I do not know to what extent the Government is considering to provide relief. I make a demand here for your consideration that in the case of death, the *ex-gratia* relief should Rs. 5 lakhs, and Rs. 2 lakhs may be considered for those who have been seriously injured. The cost of rehabilitation and living in Delhi is much more higher, and this money will not be sufficient even for these unfortunate victims.

Sir, besides the people who have died or who have received major injuries, physical injuries, there is going to be, a question of rehabilitation. There is no

mention in the note whether the hon. Minister himself visited the site.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. CHANDRESH P. THAKUR): Yes, he has. It is there. He was the earliest to reach there.

DR. JINENDRA KUMAR JAIN: He would have noticed that even across the road at least five houses have been so badly destroyed that they will have to be demolished. Otherwise some other day they will fall and collaps and so many people will be injured in the place. So, there will have to be a plan to rehabilitate those who have been the victims of the blast. I would request the Government to consider giving alternative houses, even if they are temporary sites, for accommodating these unfortunate families and that should be taken care of. Relief is the first responsibility of the Government and I am sure they will come up to the expectations of the citizens of Delhi to mitigate their sufferings.

The second thing is about the extent of the damage and the cause of the blast. Reading the note one gets the impression as if some inflammable item in the godown of a transport agency is considered by the Government to be the cause of the explosion, but if you see the magnitude of the damage—I have talked to the people there—people from two kilometres away from the place of the blast heard the sound. So much was the effect of it that places as far away as 500 square yards were affected and the glasses were broken. I would have liked to see this statement having gone into some deeper study. I hope they will now do so. There are some transport companies in the building. One of the transport companies—I have been told the name and it is for the Government to verify the Narang Transport Company—had been accused in a case in 1987. A case was registered against it.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. CHANDRESH P. THAKUR): Don't go into the history. Ask the clarification. It is already late and you want to hear the Minister also.

DR. JINENDRA KUMAR JAIN: While the Government will have further investigation into this, while seeking the clarification I am also trying to give a bit of help. My information of the fact of the case, which I have got...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. CHANDRESH P. THAKUR): That you can pass on.

DR. JINENDRA KUMAR JAIN: I am trying to pass on with your permission. Against this particular transport company in 1987 there was a case of having recovered some arms from it. What has happened to that case? When I visited the area, somebody told me that the police officials did not pursue that case. I don't know. You know better. But, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether it is true that one of the transport companies having its office in that building earlier was found to be having some arms in its possession. What has happened to that investigation?

It is feared by the people living in that area that some bombs actually were either brought there or they were there already. I do not want to blame anybody who is not here, but is the police looking into the this aspect also? Is it that that particular transport company probably has got linkages with the terrorist organisations and is having dealings in arms? This may further lead to some important linkages if you investigate into it. So, I would request the Government not to take this easily explainable option of inflammable materials having caught fire, but considering the impact of the explosion there seems to be a suspicion that it was explosion of a bomb or something like that. This needs to be looked into.

According to the statement the number of people affected as given in the statement is less. All the bodies have not yet been recovered. About one hour ago 31 dead bodies had already been taken out of the debris. The number given here is 28. I am not talking of the statistics alone, but the fact is that even after this much time, the rescue work to recover the dead bodies out of the debris is on and the people around that area feel that at least

[Dr. Jinendra Kumar Jain]

6|00 P.M.

20 more bodies they expect to find because there were people who were working there. The unfortunate thing is that most of these people who died were the labourers. At that point of time they have done the whole day's manual work and were taking food, etc. None of the owners of those companies were there. I do not wish them to be there. But the unfortunate part is that the working class people became the victims of this unfortunate tragedy. We must provide them adequate relief. We must do our best to investigate this whole matter so that in the capital city of the country, Delhi such things do not recur. If these recurring blasts keeps taking place, it shakes the confidence of the law-abiding citizens and the very existence of the Government right in the capital city of the country. Thank you, Sir.

SHRI M. M. JACOB: Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I have listened with great care and attention to the points and the questions raised by the hon. Members. I agree with hon. Member, Mr. Dineshbhai Trivedi that it is really a time for us to examine whether the system is capable of handling the growing demand of the time. Even Delhi during the last 20 years have shown a tremendous growth, may be eight or nine times. Even the population with 40 lakhs has reached 90 lakhs. Like this every aspect has grown and congestion is a reality. The buildings located in this particular area are the buildings of the British days. Some of them are very old. I went to that place and I found, as Dr. Jain was also just mentioning not only the three buildings that collapsed as a result of this blast, the other buildings also on the opposite side also which are bound to fall even if there is no blast by even a heavy blow can do damage to some of the buildings because it is almost broken. So this is a matter which needs very careful attention.

In the time available with me, I told the Delhi Administration authorities and the Municipal authorities to take immediate action on various points which the hon. Members have already mentioned. But, Sir, one or two points, as you said, is a matter of concern to all of us.

Mr. Satya Prakash Malaviya made a lot of suggestions how to prevent it. He also wanted to know the details as to how it happened and so on and so forth. But only with a thorough investigation, you will be able to find out what exactly is the reason. I am not going to believe immediately that it has happened by some inflammable materials stored in one place. I am not believing it at the moment. But that is the information gathered. However, a thorough investigation is required.

The hon. lady Member, Shrimati Satya Bahin and Mr. Narayanasamy and several other Members asked whether this is having a link with other explosions in Delhi during the last few days. The explosion at Red Fort and Jama Masjid were of a very different kind. They were due to some hand-grenades and so on and so forth. That was the report. The explosion at Paharganj was reported to be due to an explosive device triggered off by a time mechanism. The cause of explosion in Naya Bazaar may not be the same. The investigating team when it comes out with a real reason, we will come to know of it. At the moment, there is no evidence for a bomb. That is what the Bomb Squad people have said. But we should have a thorough examination by the Forensic experts also later on. Several other tests are necessary. The debris—still to be removed completely. Even now, after I made the statement, the Commissioner of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi informed me that one more dead body had been found. That means an hour ago and the Commissioner must have left the site. The work is still continuing. The real reason could be detected only after a careful scrutiny and examination.

Yesterday, the Delhi Police arrested seven terrorists. The terrorists behind nine bomb explosions were arrested by the Delhi Police in 1991. So, terrorists are also here, I should not deny that.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: They are in large numbers.

SHRI M. M. JACOB: Nearly 90 per cent of bomb blast cases were worked out and the culprits arrested.

Mr. Salaria has made some very interesting suggestions. They will be looked into. One question he has asked is whether we have sufficient fire-tenders which can go through narrow by-lanes. I have got the information that we have got nine fire-tenders which can negotiate through narrow roads and by-lanes. But, Sir, the important point is, when a transporter gets a godown in a congested area where people live and does business, who can guarantee what goods are coming in and going out? I myself saw it. There were rubber and chemical stores. I could not identify what exactly they were. The fire was on. The essential point is, such things will have to be really investigated and checked. No licence, no permission, can be given to deal in explosive material in places where people live. I have asked the municipal authorities to investigate into this aspect of how those transport godowns were there, why they were not removed earlier and whether an attempt was made at that. They said that the road was going to be closed for heavy traffic in some areas like that from 1st June onwards. That was an earlier decision. In the light of what has happened now, it has to be expedited. As Mr. Salaria pointed out, only banning a road will not do. That may not be necessary sometimes. We have to examine it.

Another question was asked as to who the person arrested was.

SHRI DINESHBHAI TRIVEDI: Can I take just half a minute? All these things also come out as a result of corruption You just mentioned how they have been licensed. I do not know which system is going to take care of such corruption because the citizens have actually lost faith in the Police Department.

SHRI M. M. JACOB: I take note of what you have said.

One person is arrested. The statements of three witnesses who were on the spot at the time of the explosion and who were also injured, indicated that the blast had taken place inside Mehra Transport Company and its owner Manmohan Mehra had been arrested. That is the information.

I am very much concerned about the labourers who are victims. As to how many of them are victims, according to my information, there are 20 men, 7 women and 2 children who are victims. The *ex-gratia* payment that the Delhi Administration has to pay immediately... (*Interruptions*).

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Still not announced.

SHRI M. M. JACOB: I think it must have been announced by them. I do not have the information. (*Interruptions*). If they have announced, the usual amounts they should have announced are Rs. 20,000/- for the next of kin of the dead and Rs. 3,000/- for those who are seriously injured.

DR. JINENDRA KUMAR JAIN: Mr. Chairman, does he think that it is sufficient? (*Interruption*). This is making a mockery of relief.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: For the next of kin, they should give Rs. one lakh and for persons injured, not less than Rs. 50,000/-.

DR. JINENDRA KUMAR JAIN: If you don't want to help them, it is all right. But at least don't make a mockery of the relief. (*Interruptions*).

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. CHANDRESH P. THAKUR): He is not stating the facts. He is saying that it is the usual pattern. What has really happened or what can follow, that is a different thing. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI M. M. JACOB: Shrimati Sarala Maheshwari also asked about the ex-gratia payment. We will certainly look into it. I myself will look into it and find out what the Delhi Administration is doing. If it is not sufficient, we will certainly see how best it can be sorted out in the light of what you have suggested.

DR. JINENDRA KUMAR JAIN: It should be Rs. 5 lakhs.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. CHANDRESH P. THAKUR): You have said that already.

SHRI M. M. JACOB: The other points which you raised, some of them are very common and I was trying to answer them. Unless we get a total picture of what has happened after thorough investigation, I may not be able to analyse and tell you what exactly the suggestion is to prevent these things. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Sir, at least 2,000 people are in the street. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI M. M. JACOB: I will have to find out. I may not be able to say whether 2,000 people are in the street or less than that are in the street. (*Interruptions*). It is under investigation. Mr. Narayanasamy must have gone there. I do not know. When I went there, I found a large number of people working to help remove the debris. I do not know who are the real people who lost their houses. All these things can be found out and proper action could be taken. I can assure you that we will make every effort to see that such kind of things do not happen in Delhi and whatever is necessary to tie it up, will be done.

About the action against the erring officials, that question was also asked by Shri Ish Dutt Yadav. Yes, Sir, if anybody is found wanting or any dereliction of duty is found, certainly we will not hesitate to take any action. I will instruct the Delhi Administration to take suitable action against such people who must have shown dereliction of duty. I thought, I must congratulate those people who worked very hard; the fire tenders, the police personnel, all of them worked hard and till now they are working. That also is a factor. Thank you very much.

SPECIAL MENTIONS—*Contd.*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. CHANDRESH P. THAKUR): There are some special mentions still left. I would like the cooperation of the Members. We will get back to special mentions. Shri Matang Sing. This is his maiden speech.

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*English translation of the original speech delivered in Assamese.

Floods in Assam

*SHRI MATANG SING (Assam): Mr. Deputy Chairman Sir, I rise to draw the attention of the august House and the Union Government towards the devastating flood in the third week of April, 1992 throughout Assam and specially in Tinsukia. The Brahmaputra is the mightiest river in India. Every year flood causes huge loss to Assam and people are to face untold misery which is beyond description. Assam is a very poor state and backward in many respects. Every year millions of people are to face the fury of flood and as a result in addition to loss of human lives, properties and standing crops worth crores of rupees are lost. That is why the economic condition of Assam is bad.

Recently there was a devastating flood in many of the towns and villages of Tinsukia district in Assam. Lakhs of people have been rendered homeless, standing crops worth crores of rupees were damaged and thousands of domestic cattle died. On the one hand the Government of Assam is struggling hard to fight the menace of terrorism and on the other hand the flood has played a havoc. The Chief Minister of Assam, Shri Hiteswar Saikia has taken prompt action for relief and rehabilitation of the flood victims. A few days back I visited the flood-affected areas along with the Chief Minister of Assam and made an on the spot assessment of the extent of loss. The situation is very alarming. In this connection the Union Government should give adequate financial assistance to the State Government because the extent of loss is so huge that the State Government alone cannot render all possible help to the people of Assam. Sir, through you I would like to request the Union Government to extend all possible help to the Government of Assam so that relief and rehabilitation work may be undertaken properly. I also urge the Union Government to depute an expert team to Assam to assess the loss caused by flood at the earliest.

Recently, a cyclonic storm lashed Assam, particularly the Nagaon ditstrict. Fifty people died in this storm. This has affected nearly 10 lakh people of 500 villages. Further 50,000 houses and 200 educational institutions have been damaged. Thousands